

Curriculum vitae

Yan Ma

Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia

Austrian Academy of Sciences

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Tibetan and Buddhist Studies, South Asian Studies
- History of Buddhist Philosophy (Buddhist Yogācāra-Mādhyamika philosophy especially that of Kamalaśīla, Indian Buddhist epistemology, Tibetan Buddhist epistemology, The Chinese Chan though especially that of Moheyan)
- Religious Studies (Buddhist path to liberation, the commentary tradition of the *Vajracchedikā*)
- Transcultural Studies (the Samye Debate, exchange between Indian and Chinese Buddhism, and their knowledge transfer to Tibet in the 8th Century).

ACADEMIC POSITION

Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia

Austrian Academy of Sciences

DOC Research Fellow

Project: Controversies about the Buddhist Path to Liberation across India, China and Tibet: Kamalaśīla's *Vajracchedikāṭīkā* and the Bsam yas Debate, Sep. 2023-

International Centre for Buddhist Studies

Renmin University of China

Research Fellow, Aug. 2012-Aug. 2017.

EDUCATION

University of Vienna

PhD candidate in the Department of South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies

Doctoral programme in Philosophy Languages and Cultures in South Asia and Tibet (Tibetan and Buddhist Studies)

Dissertation: Controversies about the Buddhist Path to Liberation across India, China and Tibet: Kamalaśīla's *Vajracchedikāṭīkā* and the Bsam yas Debate. Advisor: Birgit Kellner. March 2022-

Peking University

M.A. in Indian Language and Literature, Peking University, China, July 2020. M.A. thesis: "A Study of Dharmakīrti's Theory of Mental Perception: Based on *Pramāṇa-viniścaya* and Its Commentaries." Advisor: Saerji.

M.A. at the Department of South Asian Studies, School of Foreign Languages, Peking University, China, Sep. 2017-July 2020.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS & ACADEMIC AWARDS

OeAW (Austrian Academy of Sciences), Austria

DOC Fellowship (Nationwide competition), Sep. 2023.09-Feb. 2026.

Khyentse Foundation, US

PhD Scholarship, 2022-2023.

Peking University, China

Outstanding Graduate among Students of Colleges and Universities in Beijing, 2020.

Outstanding Graduate, Peking University, 2020.

Excellent Research Award, 2018-2019.

Yunlin Scholarship, 2017-2018.

PUBLICATIONS

"Explanation on Dhyāna and Ārūpya-samāpatti in Golden Garland of Eloquence (Legs bshad gser phreng)", In: 'Jam dbyangs mkhas grub & Wei Dedong(ed.): *International Buddhist Studies I: Meditation*. Beijing 2014: China Social Sciences Press, 131-144.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"The composition of Kamalaśīla's *Vajracchedikāṭīkā* and Its Possible Relation to the Bsam Yas Debate", *Cambridge Workshop on Buddhist Texts and Manuscripts From Dunhuang and Beyond*, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Cambridge, UK, June 15-16, 2023.

“The relationship Between Direct Perception and Effective Action in Dharmakīrti’s Epistemology — Based on *Pramāṇaviniścaya*”, Workshop *Chinese Religion and Philosophy II: Buddhist Epistemology*, Peking University, Beijing, China, October 6-7, 2019.

“Is ‘Abhrānta’ Needed in the Definition of Pratyakṣa? — Based on Dharmakīrti’s *PVin* and Its Commentaries”, *Young Scholars’ Forum of INALCO Intensive Program on Buddhism & East Asian Cultures*, INALCO, Paris, France, July 17-18. 2019.

“Meditation in Golden Garland of Eloquence (*Legs bshad gser phreng*)”, *The 2nd International Buddhist Forum: Meditation*, Beijing, China, November 24-25, 2012.

PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, in The Palace Museum's Key Research Project Year 2020 “A Comparative Study of the Sanskrit, Tibetan, and Chinese Versions of the *Laṅkāvatāra Sūtra*”, The Palace Museum, China, 2023.

Research Assistant, in the project “Indian Literary and Artistic Theories in Classical Sanskrit Literatures: Translation and Studies on Fundamental Works (Project No.18ZDA286)”, Major projects of the National Social Science Fund of China, April 2019-July 2020.

Editor Assistant, the [ongoing] Project of Online Sanskrit Dictionary Database (<http://fdict.cn/>), Project head: Shaoyong Ye, 2019-2020.

LANGUAGES

- Primary research languages: Sanskrit, Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit, Classical Tibetan, Classical Chinese, Pāli
- Communication languages: Chinese (native language), English, Japanese, German.

[Information as of November 2023.]